

Fall 10-18-1971

Senate Meeting October 18, 1971

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Recommended Citation

Senate, Academic, "Senate Meeting October 18, 1971" (1971). *Academic Senate Minutes*. Paper 117.
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ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

October 18, 1971

Vol. III, No. 3

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Morris convened a special meeting of the Academic Senate at 7:05 pm in the Ballroom of the University Union. Thirty-eight Senators were present; there were fifty-five visitors, including Mr. Robert Barr, chairman of the Board of Regents, who was introduced by Mr. Berlo.

TENTATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee and the five pro tempore committees of the Senate had all drawn up tentative policy statements on subjects assigned by the Executive Committee with Senate approval.

Copies of the statements were distributed to the Senate, and chairmen of committees made brief reports on them. The Senate took no firm action on any of the proposals but decided to send them to the President's Commission on Institutional Priorities and ask that group to react to them in view of the data amassed by the Commission and submit reactions to the Senate in time for the meeting of October 20. When adopted in final form, copies will be distributed via the Senate Minutes.

In a discussion, which at times ranged rather widely, the Senate felt that more data needs to be accumulated before a quota system on students can be instituted; there was some feeling that publicity about fields, which points out the lack of jobs in some areas, will help to reduce enrollment in some fields.

Manpower needs were discussed; it was pointed out by several Senators that many people do not work in fields for which they were initially trained and that many jobs which exist today were unknown only five or ten years ago; thus we might wish to restrain emphasis on manpower needs as major criteria for admitting students to programs.

Some persons felt that the main question is what institution will undertake the training of teachers and what institutions will have to reduce their programs. The decision will not be made locally; as one member put it, "We at I.S.U. do not set our own destiny." In the past, universities have been told what they can and cannot do, and this direction will be exercised again in the future.

The quota system should not be confined to the admission of students into programs; instead, high certification requirements by the state would help to guarantee that only well-qualified students moved successfully through a program.

The question of Student Residence education raised debate on several points: some Senators felt that SS189 and SS289 courses have failed to meet proper educational criteria and that a recent study showed the lack of effectiveness of such courses. Others argued that such courses have much potential and that a study of programs at other institutions might enable ISU to have programs which would be quite valuable.

General Education was discussed; the extreme points were that all undergraduate work might be General Education with departments existing only at the graduate level, and the other view that this university will be cutting back on General Education offerings as more Junior College students enter as juniors because ISU will accept their Junior College work as meeting our General Education requirements.

The questions about scholarships centered on whether such grants-in-aid should be based on ability or on need. The topic of residence halls centered on whether residence halls should be living-learning centers or be run as hotels. If residence halls were run on a "hotel basis," the personnel now working there and being carried on the faculty list, and being paid with general revenue funds, would be carried on a non-faculty list and would be paid from bond revenue monies.

After the discussion, Mr. Berlo spoke briefly and pointed out that the Board of Regents will take an active role in setting priorities and that such priorities may be set soon. He also felt that any academic faculty built around an academic program is very vulnerable and that the concept of program-oriented faculty must change.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Charles Hicklin has been re-elected as chairman of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board.

The Senate adjourned at 9:45 pm.

For the Academic Senate,

John S. Hill, Secretary